

**SITUATION REPORT NO. 13**  
**INCIDENT NO. 2004-021**  
**DATE: June 11, 2004 Time: 3:00 p.m.**

**TO:** Governor John Hoeven  
State Capitol  
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Severe Storms and Spring Flooding** induced by heavy precipitation on saturated ground.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) reported that on June 10, the Devils Lake Basin received rainfalls ranging from 1.5 inches in the far western portion of Benson County to one inch in Leeds. The central and eastern part of the basin received significantly less moisture of one-half inch or less. The forecast for the Devils Lake Basin calls for temperatures at or below normal for this time of year. No significant precipitation events are forecast with some chance of sporadic rains through the next week.

An official for the NWS in Grand Forks indicated the state is in an east to west weather pattern. However, generally skies will be clear to partly cloudy state wide with the possibility of scattered thunderstorms.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials for Benson and Bottineau reported recent rains have limited farmer's fieldwork since May and have prevented completion of planting.

**Benson County**

The Emergency Manager reports county and township roads remain saturated and rutted due to rainfall. Four more roads, two on the Priority Road System, have been closed due to inundation and/or unsafe driving conditions. Devils Lake waters have inundated one resident's sewer and well, and are now threatening the home (National Flood Insurance Program is working on an approval of a buyout). Access to the home is no problem, but without water and sewer it is uninhabitable. A residence in Mission township is also threatened by high water and erosion of its access road. Reports continue to come in of water in basements. All the basements in the City of Warwick are pumping water due to seepage and overland flooding from saturated ground and heavy rainfall. Seventy-five residents of the City of Leeds are reporting water in the basement and/or damage from ground saturation or overland flooding, four have experience sewer backup. In Minnewaukan about 75 percent of the residents are pumping water from their basements. Minnewaukan has ordered bigger pumps for lift stations as the current pumps can't handle the drainage into the system from rains and residential water pumping. Minnewaukan residents have been asked to limit water use. The communities of Oberon and Esmond are also experiencing basement water seepage, estimates are ongoing.

### **McHenry County**

The Emergency Manager reported a severe thunderstorm combined with hail, wind and tornado sightings on the evening of June 6. Rainfall amounts ranged from a half inch to over four inches throughout the county. An additional 1.5 inches fell near Deering on June 11 and 4.7 inches was recorded 12 miles north of Drake.

Agricultural officials reported damages to the crops south of Karlsruhe. Water is still running off fields. The Emergency Manager also reported downed trees, windows broken out in homes and outbuildings as well as damage to house and farm building shingles and siding on homes as a result of hail and wind throughout the county. The Emergency Manager also reported a grass fire occurred on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land due to a lightning strike and vehicles sustained hail damage.

### **Mountrail County**

Severe weather conditions, including thunderstorms, high wind and large hail have continued throughout the county. Officials reported broken windows, damaged vehicles, downed trees and possible crop damage. Weather spotters have worked extensively in recent days.

### **Pembina County**

The June 10 statewide precipitation event had little affect on this area with only a trace reported. The Emergency Manager reported a June 6 thunderstorm in the county provided rainfall amounts ranging from .40 inches to 1.12 inches throughout the county. Farmland is saturated and township roadbeds are soft. The following additional rainfall amounts were reported by the Emergency Manager: Walhalla (NW corner) .95 inches; Pembina (NE corner) .96 inches; Drayton (SE corner) 0.40 inches; Edinburg area (SW corner) .63 inches; 7 miles NW of Cavalier 1.12 inches (central); in Cavalier-town 0.06 inches. The Commissioner from Walhalla stated the Pembina River came up rapidly and had a lot of debris in it, while it is not at flood stage, it rose up several feet.

### **Ward County**

The June 10 precipitation event provided about one inch of new moisture in the Minot area, no damages were reported outside a few event cancellations. On June 6, at approximately 7:15 pm, a tornado touched down near Douglas, ND, destroying a barn, several outbuildings, uprooting approximately 45 evergreen trees and injuring a pony. There were also reports of downed trees throughout the county. Pea to golf ball size hail was reported in Minot, Kenmare and Berthold as well. Ward County RACES performed extensive SKYWARN duties. Storm shelters in Minot and Burlington were opened during the storm.

### **Ramsey County**

The June 10 rains dropped about a half inch on Ramsey County and the immediate Devils Lake area. The Emergency Manager reported that additional rainfall over Memorial Day weekend, reaching nearly five inches, resulted in the closing of the Woods-Rutten Road because of debris on the highway. He also reported that one-half inch of rain fell in the southern portion of the county and one to two inches of rain fell in northern part of the county. The county emergency management office is continuing to receive calls concerning individual assistance problems which include sewer system failures and severe basement seepage problems. Ramsey County agricultural officials are reporting problems with planting crops because of the very wet conditions.

Twelve Devils Lake homes located in the Sunny Hill subdivision, Pelican Township and Poplar Grove Township have been isolated due to high water over access roads. Residents have been forced to either walk or find high ground routes to access their home.

On the county line road between Benson and Ramsey Counties, one-half mile South of Churchs Ferry, a bridge crossing the Mauvais Coulee is threatened by severe erosion due to flooding.

Several Devils Lake townships are reporting further damage since their first damage assessments. Two homeowners have reported failure of their sewer systems and are considering abandonment of their homes located in the Cliffs Subdivision.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: The Benson County Road Dept. and townships are flagging closed and unsafe roads. Otherwise no change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No changes from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: On Thursday, June 10, 2004, the State Operations Center (SOC) received notification that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has amended the May 5 Major Presidential Disaster Declaration to designate six additional counties Bottineau, Burke, Mountrail, Renville, Towner and Ward Counties.

All counties and the Tribal Reservations of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (the portion of the reservation that lies within the State of North Dakota) and the Turtle Mountain Band of the Chippewa in the State of North Dakota are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

On June 4, Gov. John Hoeven announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has agreed to raise the dikes at Devils Lake in the aftermath of new flooding during the Memorial Day Weekend. The Governor said the state has set aside funding to cover both the state and local match for the project. News came late June 3, in a letter from John P. Woodley, the assistant Army secretary in charge of civil works. The plan is to complete the technical analysis this summer, bid the project in the fall and begin construction next spring.

Gov. John Hoeven requested on June 4 the State Emergency Board provide Damage Assessment Reports (DARs) for all counties in North Dakota. The Governor's office and North Dakota Emergency Management staff will review the DARs and confer with FSA staff to determine if U.S. Department of Agriculture secretarial action should be pursued. The Governor may request updated DARs if weather conditions worsen or additional losses are reported.

Officials for N.D. Division of Emergency Management (NDDEM) reported that HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) applicant meetings had been held in Grand Forks and Devils Lake and that the first Project Worksheet (PW) is ready to obligate.

State and local officials are re-evaluating public health and safety impacts on individuals in storm-impacted areas.

The Benson County Road Department has raised inundated grades on an emergency basis to prevent isolation of residents.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

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Douglas C. Friez, State Director